

REMARKS

The Specification

Applicant amends paragraph 19 in order to include references to items 65 and 66 added to the amended Figure 2, which items were required to be added pursuant to the Examiner's objection to the drawings at paragraph 7 of the Office Action.

The Abstract

Applicant amends the abstract to comply with Examiner's objection at paragraph 6 of the Office Action.

The Drawing Figure

Figure 2 has been amended pursuant to the Examiner's objections at paragraph 7, 8 and 9 of the office action.

The 35 U.S.C. 112 Rejection

Applicant amends claims 1, 8 and 9 in response to the Examiner's 35 U.S.C. 112 rejections. Claims 2, 3, 6, 10, 15, 16, 18-20, 23, 24 and 28 which depend on claims 1, 8 and/or 9, are also cured with respect to the 35 U.S.C. 112 rejection.

The 35 U.S.C. 102 Rejection

The examiner has rejected claims 1, 3, 6, 9, 10, 15, 18-20, 23, 24, and 28 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Shimizu (US Patent No. 4,825,972). Shimizu does not teach every element of claim 1 of the instant application. "A claim is anticipated only if each and every element as set forth in the claim is found, either expressly or inherently described, in a single prior art reference." *Verdegaal Bros. V. Union Oil Co. of California*, 814 F.2d 628, 631, 2 USPQ2d 1051, 1053 (Fed. Cir. 1987).

Claim 1 of the instant application teaches the element of a "a steering post maintained in a fixed position with respect to the housing for maintaining a hub in a fixed position centrally of said hand wheel". Applicant amends claim 1 to recite "a steering post maintained in a rotationally fixed position with respect to the housing for maintaining a hub in a rotationally

fixed position centrally of said hand wheel...” This amendment makes more clear that as taught by the instant application, “a hub in a fixed position centrally of said hand wheel” is one wherein the hub 14 does not rotate with the shaft 71 (See paragraph 32 of the instant application).

The examiner states that Shimizu discloses “a steering post 2 maintained in a fixed position with respect to the housing 3a, 3 for maintaining a hub (unnumbered in Fig. 8, see Exhibit) in a fixed position centrally of said hand wheel 121 (id., line 50 et seq., column 2).” The hub of the instant application is rotationally fixed to the steering post which does not rotate. The hub of Shimizu is coupled to the steering post 2 of Shimizu, which rotates pursuant to the teaching of Shimizu, at column 3, lines 12-13. Shimizu does not either expressly nor inherently teach a steering post maintained in a fixed position with respect to the housing for maintaining a hub in a fixed position centrally of said hand wheel.

Also, claim 1 of the instant application teaches the element of “a hub in a fixed position centrally of said hand wheel.” The examiner refers applicant to an attached exhibit which merely shows Figures 1a, 1b, 6-7 from Shimizu. However, there is no indication in the Specification of Shimizu, nor in the figures, that the hub of the hand wheel is in a fixed position. In fact, as the arrows in Figure 8 show, the hand wheel 121 rotates, and the hub, which appears to be an integral part of the hand wheel 121, also rotates with the hand wheel, and is therefore not fixed. Thus, Shimizu does not teach the element of a hub in a fixed position. Therefore, since Shimizu does not teach all of the elements of claim 1, applicant has successfully traversed the 35 U.S.C. 102 rejection with respect to claim 1, and the rejection should be withdrawn.

Claims 3, 6, 9, 10, 15, 18-20, 23, 24, and 28 depend from claim 1, which is now allowable, and thus should be allowable as well.

With respect to paragraph 14 of the office action, since Applicant has made changes to the claims in response to the Examiner’s §112 rejections and traversed the §102 rejection with respect to claims 1, 6, and 10, then claims 2, 8 and 16 should now be allowable in dependent form, .

Information Disclosure Statement

Pursuant to paragraph 4 of the Office Action, application submits concurrently with this

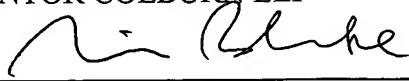


amendment and office action response, an information disclosure statement.

If there are any additional charges with respect to this Response or otherwise, please charge them to Deposit Account No. 06-1130.

Respectfully submitted,

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By: 

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